

Message Text

SECRET

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46 S

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /067 W

----- 091662

R 170917Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO CINCPAC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8579

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 3052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: REDUCTION IN U.S. UNITS IN THAILAND

REF: CINCPAC 032047Z APRIL 1974

1. IN REFTTEL, PARAGRAPHS LL AND MM ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THIS MISSION.
2. AS SEEN FROM VIENTIANE, PHASEDOWN RECOMMENDED PARA LL IS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEED FOR OB DATA COLLECTED BY DET K OF THE 500TH MI GROUP AND DET 5/7602 AIR INTELLIGENCE GROUP HAS DIMINISHED AND THAT THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE COLLECTION OF THIS DATA INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. WE HAVE ENTERED A PERIOD OF GREAT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN LAOS AND THE RISKS OR RUNNING LOW-LEVEL COLLECTION OPERATIONS IN LAOS FROM THAILAND OUTWEIGH ANY POTENTIAL GAINS. REDUCTIONS IN THE SIZE OF DET K AND DET 5 WILL HAVE NO ADVERSE IMPACT ON THIS MISSION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PARA MM, WE HAVE ALREADY COMMENTED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CINCPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICER REGARDING AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

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PROBLEMS (VIENTIANE 0308/151534Z JAN 74). WE PRESUME

THAT IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL PRESS
QUESTION ON AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OVER LAOS WILL
BE ANSWERED BY "NO COMMENT."
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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